

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

RICHARD T. COTTON AP-5702,	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	2: 14-cv-1596
	)	
MR. MARK CAPOPZZA, et al.,	)	
Respondents.	)	

MEMORANDUM and ORDER

Richard Cotton, an inmate at the State Correctional Institute – Pittsburgh has presented a petition for a writ of habeas corpus which he has been granted leave to prosecute in forma pauperis.

Cotton is presently serving a life sentence imposed following his homicide, robbery-murder and conspiracy conviction. However, this is not Cotton's first federal petition challenging his conviction at CP8004497 and CC8004167 in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County Pennsylvania. At 2:97-cv-765 Cotton submitted a habeas petition which was dismissed on May 13, 1997 and a certificate of appealability was denied. Appellate relief was not sought. At 2:06-cv-0078 he filed another federal habeas corpus petition which was dismissed on February 14, 2006 as time barred and a certificate of appealability was denied. No appellate review was sought

The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, signed into law on April 24, 1996, included several major reforms to the federal habeas corpus laws. As part of this habeas corpus reform, Congress amended 28 U.S.C. § 2244 to prohibit district courts from entertaining claims presented in a second or successive habeas corpus application unless the appropriate federal court of appeals authorizes such filing. The relevant amended language provides as follows:

(A) Before a second or successive application permitted by this section is filed in the district court, the applicant shall move in the appropriate court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application.

(B) A motion in the court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider a second or successive application shall be determined by a three-judge panel of the court of appeals.

(C) The court of appeals may authorize the filing of a second or successive application only if it determines that the application makes a prima facie showing that the application satisfies the requirements of this subsection.

(D) The court of appeals shall grant or deny the authorization to file a second or successive application not later than 30 days after the filing of the motion.

(E) The grant or denial of an authorization by a court of appeals to file a second or successive application shall not be appealable and shall not be the subject of a petition for rehearing or for a writ of certiorari.

28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3).

Because the instant petition was improperly filed in this court as opposed to the Court of Appeals as required by 28 U.S.C. 2244(b)(3)(A), this Court lacks jurisdiction over it without the authorization of the Court of Appeals, and it will be transferred to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1631 for consideration as a successive petition.

An appropriate Order shall be entered.

ORDER

AND NOW, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014, for the reasons set forth in the foregoing Memorandum, the instant petition is transferred forthwith to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1631 for consideration as a successive petition.

s/ Robert C. Mitchell,  
United States Magistrate Judge